

Wealth: Being wise with God's abundance - Transformation by design unit outline

Year 10 – Year 11

Main idea

God gives us good things in abundance, culminating in giving His Son Jesus. He wants us to draw on His wisdom and be generous with His provisions.



Biblical perspective (creation, fall, redemption, restoration)

Creation

- God's original intentions: blessing, provision, abundance
 - Genesis 1-2
 - Exodus 16,17
 - Deuteronomy 8:7-9
- All our resources (including money) belong to God: He gives them to us to look after and use wisely. In partnership with the Creator, we are to make creative use of the resources of the earth, growing and innovating, creating new products, improving on the original. There is more than enough raw material to go around

Fall

- The land—and therefore its productivity and fruitfulness—is deeply impaired by the fall (Genesis 3:17b-19a)
- Many people are unable to obtain even basic provision
- Wealth may be gained through unjust means
- Legitimate wealth can still be harmful. It may:
 - Lead to pride and arrogance (Ezekiel 28:5)
 - Lead to self-sufficiency, complacency, and a false sense of security (Luke 12:13-21)
 - Dull our senses to the deep needs around us, draining us of compassion and mercy (Luke 16:19-31)
 - Capture our hearts and divide our loyalties (Proverbs 30:8-9; Matthew 6:24)
 - Fuel dissatisfaction with what we have, desiring more, and become envious and covetous
 - Become anxious and full of worry about the future provision of our needs (Matthew 6:31-33)

Redemption

God's abundant provision culminated in Him giving us His free gift of His Son Jesus. The saving work of Jesus teaches us and empowers us to have the correct attitude towards all that we have been given.

Restoration

- Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we can move from:
 - An attitude of ownership to trusteeship Psalm 24:1; Exodus 23:10–11; Deuteronomy 15:11
 - An attitude of ingratitude to gratitude 1 Corinthians 4:7
 - An attitude of discontentment to contentment Philippians 4:11-13
 - A lifestyle of self-sufficient individualism to community Acts 4:32-35; 2:44–45
- Leaning into the wisdom of God we can use our wealth for the aid of those in poverty. Aiding the poor through wise giving, and spending.

"If you love money a lot, you will do all sorts of bad things to get it. Some people went wrong like that. They wanted a lot of money, so they stopped believing in Jesus, and they got themselves into lots of trouble, and now they are really sad." 1Timothy 6:10 Plain English Version

See also: Luke 19:11-27

Threads	
<p>GETTING WISDOM Students can go deeper than understanding and knowledge to seek the insight of God.</p> <p>SHAPING CULTURE Students understand their cultural context, discern its errors and its virtues, and seek to 'shake and shape' it for the Kingdom</p>	
Enduring understandings	Essential questions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> God gives abundantly We need to respond responsibly, generously, and wisely 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there anything wrong with having a lot? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When is it good to have a lot? When is it bad to have a lot? Should Christians use credit cards? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When are credit cards good? When are credit cards bad? Why do people want to be wealthy?
Misconceptions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wealth brings happiness 	
Life-long learning	
<p>Heart – <i>Thankfulness</i>: I am constantly grateful for God’s abundant provision of my needs and tell others about this</p> <p>Head – <i>Understand and wisdom</i>: As I persevere and rely on God to give me wisdom, I can manage my money wisely.</p> <p>Hands – <i>Service</i>: As I grow in wisdom, God helps me find opportunities in the community to be generous</p>	
Australian Curriculum Outcomes	
<p>By the end of Year 10, students recognise the effect of approximations of real numbers in repeated calculations. They use mathematical modelling to solve problems involving growth and decay in financial and other applied situations, applying linear, quadratic and exponential functions as appropriate, and solve related equations, numerically and graphically.</p>	
<p>Note: also suitable for year 11 General and Essential Mathematics</p>	
Christian perspective: framing activities	
<p><u>Poster</u> to hang in the classroom and worksheet/checklist <u>cover page</u> (suitable for y11)</p>	
<p><u>y.10 Unit outline</u> for students and <u>self-reflection rubric</u> (self-reflection suitable for y11)</p>	
<p><u>Introductory PowerPoint</u> – introduce the main idea and invite discussion (suitable for y11)</p>	
<p><u>Discussion question</u>: Is there anything wrong with having a lot? When is it good to have a lot? When is it bad to have a lot? (suitable for y11)</p>	

Other Biblical discussions: Take opportunities to challenge and re-story the material accumulation ideals held by society through examining alternate Biblical understandings (Duet. 15:1-11; Lev 25:13-17; Matt. 6:19-21; 19:21; Acts 4:32-35).

Homework – family discussion. This is a valuable opportunity to foster community between students and their families. (*suitable for y11*)

1. Our attitude towards our money, and how we choose to spend it, displays the heart of our worldview - do you agree? Give an example.
2. Interview someone in your household:
 - a. What methods do they use to borrow money (e.g., Bank, building society, credit union, finance company, credit card, relative). Why did they choose each of these?
 - b. When are credit cards good? When are credit cards bad? Ask your parents or carer if there is a time when they experienced an abundant provision (by God), that helped them, above what they were expecting.
 - c. Have they ever made bad and costly decision in how they chose to borrow or save their money? How could this have been prevented? Please don't include anything confidential!

Teacher sharing opportunities: share your own stories; ways you have seen God provide for you; wisdom and insight you have learnt when dealing with finance.

Prior to assignment (y.10) or when discussing borrowing (y.11) – photocopy a credit card statement with key information covered – so that students can see what one looks like!

Year 10 Assignment: “Fantastic plastic”.

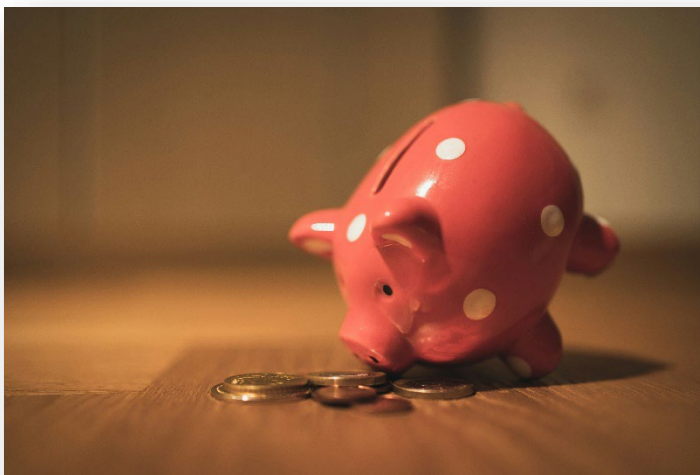
Investing and Borrowing

Everything belongs to God.

God generously provides for us.

We should look after what we have been given (be good *stewards*).

We need to grow in His wisdom and understanding to invest well and to be generous with what he gives.



Jesus said: "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." Matthew 6:19-21

Read together Matthew 25:14-3

Investing and borrowing homework

1. Our attitude towards our money and how we choose to spend displays the heart of our worldview - do you agree? Give an example.

2. Family discussion - Interview someone in your household:

It is important to open the conversations with your parents or carer about how to deal with financial issues – they are with you for the long haul after you leave school! They have a lot of wisdom that you can benefit from! Hence some homework questions are set to help this process.

- a. What methods do they use to borrow money (e.g., Bank, building society, credit union, finance company, credit card, relative). Why did they choose each of these?
- b. When are credit cards good? When are credit cards bad?
- c. Have they ever made bad and costly decision in how they chose to borrow or save their money? How could this have been prevented? Please don't include anything confidential!
- d. Ask your parents or carer if there is a time when they experienced an abundant provision (by God), that helped them, above what they were expecting.